

## The Argument.

AT the dawn of a day when *Arthur* was led by *Merlin* to the Magic Mere he saw a great sword rising out of the water; and while he looked upon it there came voices from the Mere saying unto him that the name of that sword was *Excalibur*, which had been forged beneath the waters of the sea; and that it should be given to the son of *Uther Pendragon*, who in aftertime should rule over a kingdom that should rule the sea. And while *Arthur* wondered, *Merlin* declared the truth unto him that he was *Pendragon's* son albeit he knew it not; and *Merlin* bade *Arthur* take the sword, telling him also that although the blade was of such temper that no man could withstand its stroke, yet was the scabbard worthier than the sword. And at the same time there appeared a vision of *Guinevere*, and seeing her *Arthur* desired her for his Queen. But while he gazed upon her there came other voices which declared unto him that, by reason of her beauty, great evil should fall upon his kingdom; yet *Arthur* heeded them not and resolved to make her his Queen. And in aftertime when they were wed *Arthur* bethought him of the words of *Merlin*, that the scabbard was worthier than the sword; for with the coming of *Guinevere* peace fell upon the land after a long season of havoc and war, and therefore *Arthur* likened his Queen unto the scabbard of *Excalibur*. But there dwelt at the Court one *Morgan Le Fay*, who loved not *Arthur*; for she desired the kingdom for her son whose name was *Mordred*. And this same *Morgan* had learned from *Merlin* that he alone might slay *Pendragon's* son who was born with the May. And this thing she kept in her heart, for *Mordred* had been born to her on May-day. Now at this time a strange thing happened at the Court; for the cup of the Holy Grail, which in long time past had been brought to this isle, and had since been snatched away no man knew whither, appeared again to *Arthur's* knights in the Great Hall at Camelot: yet was the cup so veiled that no man might see it with his eyes. Then a great company of *Arthur's* knights took upon themselves a vow to seek this Holy Grail through all the world till they might openly behold the cup itself. And *Sir Lancelot*, who was the bravest knight of all the Court, would have joined himself to this Holy Quest; and *Queen Guinevere* was willing he should go; for she knew of his great love for her and would not that they should bring shame upon the King. But *Arthur* withstood them both, for he loved *Lancelot* better than any other knight, and so it chanced that *Lancelot* stayed. Whereat *Morgan Le Fay* was well content; for knowing of the loves of *Lancelot* and *Guinevere* she hoped thereby to bring ruin upon the King. And yet mindful always of *Merlin's* words that the scabbard of *Excalibur* was mightier than the sword, she bethought her of how the King had likened the scabbard unto his Queen; and so one night while *Arthur* slept she stole away the scabbard of *Excalibur* and left him only his naked sword. Whereafter followed great evil to the kingdom, for at this hour *Caerleon* was besieged and *Arthur*, who had learned that his Queen was false to him, cared no more for his scabbard that was gone, but with his naked sword went forth to make war upon his enemies. And when the King had departed, *Mordred* gave out that he had been slain by *Lancelot*, and would have made *Guinevere* his wife; and when she spurned him he cast her into prison and condemned her to be burnt; and although *Arthur* came to fight in her cause he could not save her, for *Excalibur* availed not against the blade of him who had been born on May-day. Yet *Guinevere* died not then, for *Lancelot* saved her from the fire, and slew *Mordred* who had slain the King. And after he was dead *Arthur* was borne by the three Queens of Night to that sweet isle of sleep, which is called *Avalon*: yet ere he went he commanded *Bedevere* to take *Excalibur* and cast it into the water, so that when his day was ended England should find her sword again in the sea.

Choirmaster—MR. TABB.

The Costumes, under the direction of MRS. COMYNS CARR and MR. KARL, by NATHAN & Co.,  
MRS. NETTLESHIP and AUGUSTE ET CIE.

Perruquier, MR. FOX. Appointments by MR. ARNOTT. Machinist, MR. FILLERY.

STAGE MANAGER	MR. H. J. LOVEDAY.
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	MR. MEREDITH BALL.
ACTING MANAGER	MR. BRAM STOKER.

*The Bill of the Play is in every part of the House supplied without charge.*

The ACTING EDITION of KING ARTHUR, by J. Comyns Carr, to be had in the Theatre, price 1/-

Opera Glasses can be had on Hire from the Cloak-Room Attendants, One Shilling each.

This Theatre is lighted by Electricity, supplied by the Electricity Supply Corporation, Limited.

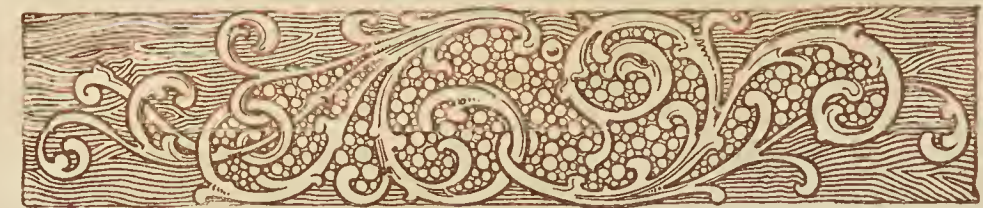
Doors open at 7.30. Performance commences at 8 o'clock punctually.

Box Office open 10 to 5, under the direction of Mr. JOSEPH HURST.

Private Boxes, £2 2s. and £4 4s.; Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 7s.; Upper Circle, 4s.  
Amphitheatre, 2s. 6d.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s.

NO FEES OF ANY KIND.

NOVELLO, LONDON.



# Royal Lyceum Theatre.

SOLE LESSEE AND MANAGER:

MR. HENRY IRVING.



## KING ARTHUR



The Seventeenth Season of the present Management.





THIS EVENING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1895,  
AND EVERY EVENING DURING THE WEEK, AT EIGHT O'CLOCK,

WILL BE PRESENTED

A PLAY IN A PROLOGUE AND FOUR ACTS,

# KING ARTHUR

BY  
J. COMYNS CARR.

King Arthur	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. TYARS.
Sir Lancelot	} <i>Knights of the Round Table</i> {					Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON
Sir Mordred						(By permission of Mr. Hare). Mr. FRANK COOPER.
Sir Kay ....						Mr. CLARENCE HAGUE.
Sir Gawaine						Mr. BELMORE.
Sir Bedevere						Mr. FULLER MELLISH.
Sir Agravaine						Mr. LACY.
Sir Percival						Mr. BUCKLEY.
Sir Lavaine						Mr. JULIUS KNIGHT.
Sir Dagonet						Mr. HARVEY.
Merlin ....	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. SYDNEY VALENTINE.
Messenger	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. WENTWORTH.
Gaoler ....	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. TABB.
Morgan Le Fay....	....	....	....	....	....	Miss GENEVIEVE WARD.
Elaine ....	....	....	....	....	....	Miss LENA ASHWELL.
Clarissant	....	....	....	....	....	Miss ANNIE HUGHES.
Spirit of the Lake	....	....	....	....	....	Miss MAUD MILTON.
Guinevere	....	....	....	....	....	AND Miss ELLEN TERRY.
<i>Knights, Ladies of the Court, &amp;c.</i>						

The Choral and Incidental Music has been composed expressly for the play by  
ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

The Entr'actes will be selected from the Instrumental Works of the same Composer.

The Scenery and Costumes have been specially designed by  
SIR EDWARD BURNE-JONES, BART.

## Synopsis of Scenery.

### The Prologue.

#### EXCALIBUR.

SCENE—The Magic Mere—*Hawes Craven.*

Warrior knight, into thy hand,  
Monarch of a mighty land  
That, in unborn years, shall be  
Monarch of the mightier sea ;  
Great Pendragon's son, to thee  
We shall yield Excalibur.

Love and Hate are born in May,  
Love, the bird upon the wing,  
Hate, the worm devouring  
All Love's flowers of yesterday,  
Wait for thee in Guinevere.

### Act I.

#### THE HOLY GRAIL.

SCENE—The Great Hall at Camelot—*J. Harker.*

Look not to thy love,  
Love that lives an hour ;  
Heaven's voice above  
Calls thee from her bower.  
Rise, and go forth, with us who seek the Grail,  
Winning from above  
Love that shall not fail.

Ere those lips be dumb  
That would bid thee stay ;  
Ere the night be come,  
Rise, and come away !  
We, who go forth to seek the Holy Grail,  
Win, ere night be come,  
Light that shall not fail.

### Act II.

#### THE QUEEN'S MAYING.

SCENE—The Whitethorn Wood—*Hawes Craven.*

Ere upon its snowy bed  
Lies the firstborn of the spring,  
Ere the crocus lifts its head,  
Or the swallow finds its wing,  
Love is here :  
Say ye then Earth's flowers shall fade ?  
We shall tell ye nay :  
Love, the first of all flowers made,  
Lives from May to May.

Dreaming 'neath a whitened thorn,  
Like a rose-leaf on the snow,  
Lovers ! ere the day be worn,  
Ye shall find him and shall know,  
Love is here.  
And, at nightfall when ye part,  
Whispering shall say :  
Love is lord of every heart,  
Love is lord of May.

### Act III.

#### THE BLACK BARGE.

SCENE—The Turret above the River at Camelot—*Hawes Craven.*

### Act IV.

#### THE PASSING OF ARTHUR.

SCENE I—The Queen's Prison at Camelot—*Hawes Craven.*

SCENE 2—The Great Hall at Camelot—*J. Harker.*

Sleep ! oh sleep ! till night outworn  
Wakens to the echoing horn  
That shall greet thee King new-born,  
King that was, and is to be.

And a voice from shore to shore  
Cries, " Arise, and sleep no more,  
Greet the dawn, the night is o'er,  
England's sword is in the sea ! "

{ All Applications regarding Property should be made to the Acting Manager.  
Any one finding Property lost will kindly leave it with the Acting Manager so that it can be  
restored to the rightful owner }

LOST PROPERTY